

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 1947
Sacramento, CA 95812-1947
(916) 576-7109
(916) 263-1406 (FAX)
(916) 263-1402 (TDD)

**PROGRAM GUIDANCE****PG 11-04**

Issue Date: May 12, 2011 (Updated May 20, 2011)

Expiration Date: Until Rescinded or upon addition to contract

TO: All CSD Energy Program Contractors/Service Providers

SUBJECT: Blower Door Diagnostics; Depressurization

PURPOSE: This guidance explains and clarifies updated procedures and requirements for blower door diagnostics

REFERENCE: 42 USC §6861
10 CFR §440.1

EFFECTIVE DATE OF GUIDANCE: Assessments performed after June 12, 2011

Guidance: All CSD Energy Program Contractors/Service Providers will use depressurization as the normal standard for blower door diagnostics (all programs) unless a condition exists described in this guidance necessitates pressurization for testing.

Background: California provides training in both pressurization and depressurization for blower door testing, with pressurization having become the leading technique. Nationally, however, depressurization is increasingly recognized as the standard best practice in blower door diagnostics and the federal Department of Energy supports depressurization for use in most situations. Therefore, CSD is adopting depressurization as the standard practice for its weatherization assistance program.

Procedure or
Action

Required: A depressurization test is the normal blower door diagnostic test for the weatherization assistance program.

Use the pressurization blower door test method, rather than a depressurization test, if one of the following conditions exists:

- Wood or other solid fuel heating fireplace or appliance operating, or ashes/coals present
- Vented space heater operating
- Vermiculite is present in the attic, and unless test determines otherwise, asbestos may be present
- Friable asbestos is found in any other area within the thermal boundaries of the dwelling
- Animal or bird feces is found in the attic that may be a health hazard
- Sewage leakage is present in the crawl space

Contact: Please contact the CSD Technical Assistance Hotline [1-877-831-7596] with any questions or concerns regarding this guidance.